

GRANTEE: Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, Inc.

ADDRESS: Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, Inc.
1441 Main Street, Suite 111
Springfield, Massachusetts 01103

AMOUNT: \$3,000,000

DURATION: 24 months

POPULATION SERVED: Targeted populations include: 110 unemployed and under employed workers who have computer related background and skills for entry-level positions but lack necessary credentials. They may also lack the resources to enable them to obtain certifications and/or higher-level education degrees. This includes: 20 women on the current IT² (existing Hampden County Project) waiting list, minority women participating in "One Day A Week" program to earn a Bachelor's degree in information systems, Ex offenders participating in the STESP-IT technology training program, minority youth attending technology courses at Westover Job Corps, and other referred females and minorities. The program also targets 10 teachers of under represented students and 845 currently employed workers who are in lower level positions within their companies but have capacity for growth with the addition of the right technical skills.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Training focuses on reducing reliance on foreign workers in technical areas that relate to information and technology areas. Training outcomes for all participants will be measured by increased skills as documented by obtaining certifications and/or successfully completing technology related courses, which provide new areas of expertise. Employed workers will also realize career advancement, increased job responsibilities and/or increased pay. Provide a system of career ladder options with opportunities for professional growth and upward mobility to 1,000 workers and to as many companies as feasible. Provide training at a broader range of companies across industry sectors with common technology skills needs. Train more workers across companies through increased private investment of 50% of training costs. Provide training to meet the needs of small to medium sized employers. Target training for women, minorities, ex offenders, and teachers of under represented groups. New, paid internship component will provide unemployed workers with a limited work history.

KEY PARTICIPANTS: Greater Hartford WIB, Worcester WIB, Franklin/Hampshire WIB, Northeast Center for Telecommunication Technology, Regional Technology Alliance, Connecticut Business and Industry Association, Telitcom Development Corporation, Inc., various community colleges

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